

good usage and understanding of words. One is not a progressive merely by adopting that misused term as a mask for intellectual inertia or lack of linguistic insight, any more than the self-appointed candidate for political office is a statesman simply by so labelling himself. Some of the younger "progressives" who adopt that unearned tag and who often remind one of George W. Cable's creole boy who was called Crabiche because he made progress backwardly, would do well, if they are not superior to being instructed, to read and digest the whole discussion on "*Species-names with capital letters*" (Bailey, l. c. 168-174) by the always progressive dean of us all.—M. L. FERNALD.

THE OCCURRENCE OF *ELEOCHARIS NITIDA* IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGION

OLGA LAKELA

Eleocharis nitida Fernald, hitherto known from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec and northern New Hampshire, appears to have a wide range in the Lake Superior region. In the interior it was first discovered in Superior, Wisconsin, by Dr. John W. Thomson, Jr., who sent a specimen to the writer. According to information on the label, the plants were growing in a wet area south of 920 N. 22nd St. "Cultivated in 1936," must refer to the site of the colony.

After this discovery, one could hardly suppress hopes of finding the species on the Duluth side of the extensive waterfront. However, in Minnesota, its occurrence was first known to the late Dr. F. K. Butters who, with Dr. Ernst Abbe, without knowledge of the Wisconsin plants, collected the species in August, 1944, near Tofte, Cook Co. Thus, the two known sites were some hundred miles apart. The occurrence of the plant somewhere between the terminal points of its known range seemed probable.

On July 13, 1946, the writer made an effort to study *E. nitida* in the known colony near Tofte. As the North Shore Highway 61 enters Cook Co., the upper side of the road becomes springy and there are long stretches of the ditch-bottom under shallow water or, in places, deep water with marshy aspect. Frequent

stops were made to observe such areas from the county line to Tofte, and *Eleocharis nitida* was found in several localities. It seems to thrive best in wet soil or in shallow water in more or less bare areas. It is absent from deeper marshy spots under dense vegetation. Collection no. 6406 was made from a colony growing in a springy area on Highway 61, in Cook Co., about 2 mi. from the Lake Co. line. Associated with it grow various species of *Juncus*, *Scirpus* and *Carex*. Of the last named, here-with are mentioned species least frequently encountered in Minnesota: namely, *C. livida* (Wahlenb.) Willd., observed in two colonies near Schroeder; *C. Michauxiana* Boeckl., a single colony in the same locality. More frequent were *C. VahlII* Schkuhr, and *C. flava* L.

At least one locality in Lake Co. was found favorable for *Eleocharis nitida*, a springy area near the southwest end of Pork Bay bridge. The fine clayey loam at the site of the colony was pitted by borings of *Philohela minor* (Gmelin). Collection no. 6396 was made from the colony established in bare spots of the ditch-bottom.

The North Shore area in St. Louis Co. has been collected rather thoroughly by the writer during the past ten years. However, a few localities needed re-checking, especially the sides of Highway 61, about one mile from Lake Co. line. Thus, on July 21, 1946, in a springy spot of the roadside, about 17 miles from Duluth, a colony of *E. nitida* was located. Collection nos. 6520 and 6521 were made at this area. The highway from this point passes over a wooded hill and Lake Superior shore lies some hundred feet below. Toward the southeast along the Stony Point Shore Drive, the lake shore is low, with shallow marshy pools subjected to wave action during high winds. Two small creeks emerge from a thicket, to enter into the lake. In the bare soil of the creek-mouths, among boulders, and in the moss-lined shore pools *E. nitida* occurs with *E. acicularis*. This Lake Superior shore station is less than one-half mile across the rising land from the colony on Highway 61. Collections nos. 6524 and 6798 were made at this site. Thus, its occurrence in several localities indicates a wide interior distribution.

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